In the Claims

1 – 11 (cancelled).

12 (currently amended). A method for reducing the expression of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) gene and RSV viral titer in a ~~mammalian~~ human subject, comprising administering a ~~nanoparticle~~ vector to airway cells in the subject, ~~wherein the nanoparticle comprises a polynucleotide conjugated to chitosan, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a nucleic acid sequence~~ wherein the vector comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding a short interfering RNA (siRNA) targeted to a target nucleic acid sequence within the RSV NS1 gene or ~~an~~ RSV NS1 transcript, ~~wherein the polynucleotide is a small interfering RNA (siRNA) or expresses a small hairpin RNA (shRNA),~~ and wherein the ~~nanoparticle~~ vector is administered in an effective amount to reduce expression of the RSV NS1 gene or NS1 transcript in the airway cells and reduce RSV titer in the subject.

13 (currently amended). The method of claim 12, wherein the subject is suffering from an RSV infection at the time the vector is administered.

14 (currently amended). The method of claim 12, wherein the subject is not suffering from an RSV infection, and the vector is administered prophylactically before RSV infection.

15 – 43 (cancelled).

44 (new). The method of claim 12, wherein the vector is a viral vector.

45 (new). The method of claim 12, wherein the vector is a non-viral vector.